

Analysis of Year 2000 Korean-American Health Survey

Meehyung Cho, Ph.D.

Merck Research Laboratories, Department of Clinical Biostatistics

126 E. Lincoln Ave.

Rahway, NJ 07065

USA

meehyung_cho@merck.com

Myoung Ock Ahn, MD, Ph.D., Dr. PH.

Associate Professor

Department of OBGYN / Department of Preventive Medicine

College of Medicine, Pochun Cha University

Seoul, Korea

amo@cha.ac.kr

Howin Song, MD, Ph.D. and Eugene Han, MD

Korean Health Education, Information, and Research Center

Los Angeles, CA 90020

USA

kheirclinic@aol.com

1. Health Survey for Korean-Americans

Among a variety of ethnic groups, Korean-Americans (KAs) are one of the most recent and rapidly growing immigrant groups in America. Unlike other minority groups, little information is available regarding health status and needs for KAs. Few survey studies regarding health-related issues have been conducted targeting Korean-Americans.

Recently, one non-profit research organization (KHEIR) in Los Angeles, California, conducted a comprehensive health survey for KAs in 1999-2000 (called Year 2000 Health Survey) using a self-administered questionnaire and telephone interviews in a variety of health questions, including disease prevalence, utilization of health care facility and health care expenditure. According to the 1989 survey (Song H, Kim SH, Han E, 1990) KHEIR previously conducted in 1989, there seemed to be a drastic discrepancy between the general US population and KA population in various health issues, including disease pattern, insurance coverage and utilization of health care facility. This Year 2000 health survey was performed to shed light on the health status needs of KAs and to compare the results with those from the 1989 survey (where appropriate) as well as the general US population based upon 2000 US census data. Moreover, it was aimed to obtain KAs' baseline health information, which would be used to initiate community health projects and to evaluate the impact on the Korean-American community.

The study population was randomly selected based upon a telephone directory software covering the Los Angeles county. Of 949 households who had received the questionnaire, 539 households responded by the end of April, 2000. The total number of individuals who responded was 1659. The unit response rate was about 57%.

In this talk, we examine preliminary results of the Year 2000 Health Survey Data. Additionally, discussion of statistical challenges from this study, including assessment of measurement errors and non-responses which are not ignorable will be provided. The brief summaries from the preliminary results include the following: 1) compared to the 1989 survey, proportions of the senior population noticeably increased and the mean length of residence in the US increased from 8.5 to 14.5 years. 2) The percentage of respondents preferring Korean-speaking physicians as their primary care physicians were more visible compared to the previous survey, partly due to the increased number of Korean-speaking physicians during the past 10 years. 3) Only about one-half of the respondents had health insurance; Health insurance coverage had a positive correlation with family income, immigration duration and education level.

REFERENCE

1. Song H, Kim SH, Han E.(1990) Summary report of Korean Health Need Survey. Korean Health Education, Information and research center.

RESUME

Les résultats préliminaires d'un récent sondage médical concernant des problèmes de santé parmi la population coréenne-américaine sont présentés ci-après. Aussi, nous abordons certains problèmes statistiques découlant de cette étude.